



1772

## In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants: David G. Midkiff et al. Docket No.: 15780  
Serial No.: 09/944,435 Group: 1772  
Confirmation No: 1854 Examiner:  
Filed: August 31, 2001  
For: RIGIDIFIED NONWOVEN AND METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME

**Information Disclosure Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c) (1)**  
**Before Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance**  
**Certification Under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1) - Items Contained In a Search Report**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97 et seq., Applicants, through and by their attorneys, hereby wish to direct the Examiner's attention to the hereinafter disclosed documents.

By inclusion of any given document in this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants in no way admit that such document is effective as prior art against the above-identified application under either 35 U.S.C. 102 or 35 U.S.C. 103.

Additionally, submission of any document is not to be taken as an admission of the materiality of the document to the prosecution of the present application.

The Examiner is requested to review each cited document and personally determine its prior art status.

Applicants recommend that the Examiner conduct an independent search for any and all available material prior art and independently review the results of such search and the documents cited within this Statement.

A filled-in modified PTO-1449 form listing all of the documents cited in this Statement and copies of those documents are presented herewith for the Examiner's review and convenience.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicants request the Examiner, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, to indicate and make of record receipt and review of all of these documents by initialing the appropriate box in the accompanying PTO-1449. Applicants request that the undersigned receive a copy of the initialed PTO-1449.

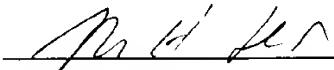
If the Examiner refuses to consider any or all of the herein submitted materials because it is the Examiner's opinion that this Information Disclosure Statement is not in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner notify the undersigned, in writing, as to the basis of such opinion.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

The undersigned may be reached at: (770) 587-7204.

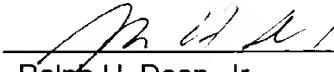
Respectfully submitted,

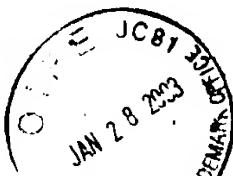
DAVID G. MIDKIFF ET AL.

By:   
Ralph H. Dean, Jr.  
Registration No.: 41,550

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Ralph H. Dean, Jr., hereby certify that on January 22, 2003 this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By:   
Ralph H. Dean, Jr.


**List of Patents and Publications for Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicant(s): David G. Midkiff et al. Docket 15780  
 Serial No.: 09/944,435 Group: 1772  
 Filed: August 31, 2001 Examiner:

<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
<b>Initials</b>		<b>Doc. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subclass</b>	<b>Filing Date</b>
	A1	5,240,479	08/31/1993	Bachinski			
	A2	6,143,818	11/07/2000	Wang et al.			
	A3						
	A4						
	A5						
<b>Foreign Patent Documents</b>							
<b>Initials</b>		<b>Doc. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Subclass</b>	<b>Trans.</b>
	A1						
	A2						
	A3						
	A4						
<b>Other Documents</b>							
<b>Initials</b>		<b>Author, Title, Date, Pages, etc.</b>					
	A1	International Search Report dated November 13, 2002, for International Application No. PCT/US02/18735.					
	A2						
	A3						
	A4						

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609.  
 Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with your next communication.

**Examiner:**
**Date Considered:**